

I agree 100 % with the FISTS petition, RM-10811.

I strongly favor the retention of the CW Morse code requirement for an Amateur radio license.

Amateur Radio has been a wonderful hobby which has proven to be extremely helpful to our country in times of emergency. It provides a FREE service to the country that would cost billions of dollars to duplicate if it were provided by a government agency. Amateur Radio operators (HAMS) have spent a lot of money on their equipment. I personally have more than \$10,000 in amateur communications equipment and have built a separate building that can be used as an emergency operations center any time it is needed for another \$10,000. Whether HAMS prefer to work with Radio Teletype, FM, (SSB) Single Side Band communications, Amateur Television, or working with the satellites, or working CW using Morse Code, all these things are part of the Hobby and therefore available to provide a free service to the public. Sometimes I think of Amateur Radio as a collection of hobbies because it has so many aspects. But I cannot imagine any Amateur Radio operator participating in all of the various aspects of the hobby. Since the very beginning CW has always been that common bond for Amateur operators. The means by which we could always communicate with each other. CW has always been the common language we all knew. CW equipment can be very simple, very inexpensive, yet very effective in getting a message to another station even with very low power. Amateur operators new to the service could never say they could not afford the cost of the equipment because for just a few dollars they could put together a small transceiver and get on CW. We Hams have always known that when the chips were down, the power was out, or the main equipment had failed for one reason or another, we could always fall back on CW maybe using battery power or a solar cell. We knew all the other operators would be able to understand a CW message, even if the other operator preferred to operate Single Side Band or some other mode of operation. We knew if there was no other way we could send a CW message and it would get through and save a life or whatever.

If CW is not required for the Amateur Radio license, I know there will be a time when all the sophisticated, high powered equipment is out of service, someone, somewhere will send a message in Morse Code that could save a life and the operator at the other end will not be able to understand it. People will not learn CW if it is not required for licensing.

Now for some reason there are people who want to take the easy road. They want to license people to be appliance operators. People who know very little about radio except how to flip the on/off switch and talk like (CB) Citizen Band operators. But that is not all there is to Amateur Radio. It never has been. I hope it never is in the future. CB has been a disgusting mess almost from the very beginning. I am very proud to be an Amateur Radio Operator, and I am very proud of the other Amateur Radio operators who have spent many hours and continue to work to improve their art. I believe CW using Morse Code is extremely important to the licensing of Amateur radio operators. It provides the common bond with other Amateur Operators, and it requires a little study and practice which separates the serious person who actually will be able to provide a communications service in time of emergency from the Citizen Band mentality of operator.